

Chapter 9 | The Port of New Orleans

Standard 2 – Key Events, Ideas and People: Students analyze how the contributions of key events, ideas, and people influenced the development of modern Louisiana.

GLE 8.2.2 Explain the importance of the Mississippi River as it relates to historical events throughout Louisiana’s history.

Use the three sources and your knowledge of social studies to answer the questions.

Source 1: The Port of New Orleans



Source 2: Recollections of New Orleans

In 1834, Colonel James R. Creecy made these observations about the city of New Orleans. His recollections are recounted in *Scenes in the South and Other Miscellaneous Pieces*.

With what astonishment did I for the first time, view the magnificent levee, from one point or horn of the beautiful crescent to the other, covered with active human beings of all nations and colors, and boxes, bales, bags, hogsheads, pipes, barrels, kegs of goods, wares and merchandise from all ends of the earth! Thousands of bales of cotton, tierces of sugar, molasses; quantities of flour, pork, lard, grain and other provisions; leads, furs, etc., from the rich and extensive rivers above; and the wharves lined for miles with ships, steamers, flatboats, arks, etc. four deep! The business appearance of this city is not surpassed by any other in the wide world ... It might be likened to a huge beehive, where no drones could find a resting place. I stepped on shore, and my first exclamation was, “This is the place for a business man!”

Source 3: The Steamboat

Steamboats provided faster and cheaper transportation of people and goods. In the early days of the steamboat, a journey from New Orleans to Louisville, Kentucky, (approximately 1,350 miles) might require two weeks or more. By the 1850s, this same trip could be completed in six or seven days. However, there were dangers when traveling by steamboat. The table below identifies the most common causes of steamboat wrecks during the years 1836 to 1840 and 1846 to 1850.

Cause	1836—1840	1846—1850
Burned	20	85
Capsized	0	1
Collided	9	21
Exploded	9	16
Foundered	4	7
Ice	1	4
Snagged	43	79
Stranded	11	24
Unknown	0	2
Total	97	239

Data source: *Troubled Waters* by Paul F. Paskoff, page 214

Item 1: Multiple Choice

Based on Source 3, which term best summarizes steamboat travel in the 1800s?

- A. relaxing
- B. expensive
- C. fun
- D. dangerous

Item 2: Multiple Select

Based on Sources 1 and 2, which four words best describe the port of New Orleans in the antebellum era?

- busy
- dangerous
- crowded
- astonishing
- boring
- commercial

Item 3: Technology Enhanced Item

Based on the table below and your knowledge of social studies, identify the political party of each group of Louisiana residents and why they supported the party.

Beliefs of the Political Parties		
Democrats	Whigs	Know Nothings
party of the "common man"	protective tariffs	rights for native-born
supported suffrage	supported businesses	anti-Catholic

Copy the correct answers from the list below to the chart titled Who We Support. Fill every space in the chart. All options in the list will NOT be used.

use of tariffs to stop imports of foreign goods
voting rights expanded without limits based on wealth
rights for people born in the US over immigrants
Democrats
Know Nothings
Whigs

WHO WE SUPPORT		
Group of People	Political Party They Supported	Why They Supported this Party
New Orleans dock workers		
small acreage farmers		
sugarcane planters		

Item 4: Constructed Response

Based on the sources and your knowledge of social studies, explain which political party would best appeal to the average antebellum Louisiana voter, and which party would appeal least to the same population. Justify your decision about each party.
